News Release

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Qualico bids to build portrait gallery in Edmonton

Edmonton, April 11, 2008 – Qualico, a Western Canadian real estate development company, is submitting a bid to build Canada's first national portrait gallery in downtown Edmonton.

Qualico is proposing that the gallery be located next to the new EPCOR Tower in its Station Lands project in downtown Edmonton, in response to a nationwide competition announced by the federal government. The gallery would be located north of 103A Avenue directly north of City Hall.

Ken Cantor, Commercial Manager for Qualico, says "The gallery is a prestigious project. Given Edmonton's strong cultural community and status as a cultural capital, Qualico could not pass up this opportunity to assist the city in enhancing its profile on the national stage."

"The City of Edmonton is pleased that the private sector has stepped up to bid for the gallery to be located in Edmonton. Having the gallery in the arts district is key to revitalizing downtown Edmonton," said Kathy Barnhart, head of the City's Neighbourhood and Community Development Branch.

In November 2007, the federal government launched a nine-city competition for private sector-led bids to build a new national portrait gallery. The one million-plus piece collection comprises paintings, prints, sculptures, photographs, films and caricatures which are currently housed at Library and Archives Canada. According to competition documents, a decision is expected this fall.

Note to editors:
Architect sketches in PDF format are available on request from bin.lau@edmonton.ca

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About Edmonton:

This is a city alive with energy and boundless opportunity - a growing economic powerhouse where business thrives and more than a million lives enjoy the freedom to explore, experiment, experience, excel and expect the most out of every day. A place like no other, Edmonton is filled with surprises great and small and a calendar packed with artistic, sporting, theatrical and cultural celebration.

For more information on Edmonton, please visit our website at: www.edmonton.ca.

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